

NSC BRIEFING

28 September 1960

MOSCOW AND PEIPING PROPAGANDA TREATMENT  
OF MAJOR SPEECHES AT THE 15th UNGA SESSION

- I. President's speech, summarized by TASS in 600 words, given usual tendentious treatment by Soviet media. However, government newspaper Izvestia published full text (unusual but not unprecedented coverage of a Presidential pronouncement).
- A. Moscow disparages the speech as "colorless," "mere sophistry," "disappointing," and "nothing new."
1. Stated on 24 September, "one can hardly escape the impression that statesmanship is on an indefinite leave of absence from Washington."
  2. Soviet media have not picked up Khrushchev's impromptu remark that speech was "conciliatory."
- B. Some 50 Moscow radio commentaries elaborated TASS criticism.
1. TASS reported that President advanced "so-called" five-point program for Africa; commentators said the African delegates seemed bored and that "the aid proposed by the United States is insignificant."
- C. TASS said President "virtually buried" idea of general and complete disarmament.
- II. Peiping reported briefly on 23 September that President gave "a long speech," followed up later in day with heavily slanted 1,200-word account--twice as long as TASS's and much more denunciatory.
- A. Chinese account says President devoted more than half speech to "advocating the US Government's policy of aggression against Africa through continued, intensified use of the UN."

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B. Radio Peiping broadcast a truncated version of this story to domestic and a few foreign audiences--typical handling of a Presidential statement.

III. Khrushchev speech given unprecedented publicity by Moscow.

A. More than twice the publicity given his UNGA speech last year.

B. Greater attention than Moscow has ever paid any Khrushchev speech.

C. Speech termed a "bold new peace initiative" that drew "wide acclaim" from world public opinion, caused "confusion and alarm" in Western "ruling circles."

D. Most commentaries, including Pravda's 26 September editorial, focus on disarmament and proposal for liquidation of colonialism.

1. Comparatively little attention has been given his proposals for changing UN structure and moving UN headquarters.

IV. Other bloc countries have followed Soviet line except Communist China, whose handling reflects current Sino-Soviet differences.

A. Apparently still suspicious of Khrushchev's intentions toward West, Peiping has so far made no comment whatever on the speech.

B. Official New China News Agency did issue 1,600-word summary, including all of Khrushchev's major points, but did no editorializing.

V. Moscow and Peiping divergency again manifested in Tito speech treatment.

A. Moscow gave Tito more objective treatment than President, with stress on Tito's plea for disarmament.

B. Peiping denounces Yugoslav bitterly, ignores his approval of ChiCom UN membership.

C. Chinese undoubtedly furious at Khrushchev-Tito tete-a-tete yesterday.

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